

TWEC DINNER 6th May, 2011



A happy gathering took place this evening at the Therry Centre East Maitland for the 18th annual Dinner in support of the Tennison Woods Education Centre, a ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar.

Many friends and well-wishers gathered in a relaxed atmosphere to enjoy pre-dinner drinks before sitting down to the hot meal. Among the guests were a party from the Catholic Schools Office and the local St Joseph's Campus as well as varied groups of participants from the courses run by TWEC over the years. Sr Colleen Carney, the Executive manager welcomed the large gathering.



Guest speaker for the evening was Donna Mulhearn, originally from Maitland who is well known as a 'human shield' during the Iraq war. Donna shared her journey from political journalism to peace activist in a talk "Peacemakers in an Age of Violence".





She was introduced to the gathering by her cousin, Fr Geoff Mulhearn who spoke of the history of prayer and activism in the family stretching back to their great-grandmother.

Donna's story, especially her encounter with eleven year old Arian dying from Leukaemia in 2003 because of the toxic use of depleted uranium weapons by the invading forces struck a chord with the attentive listeners. We were challenged to become active in the campaign to ban such destructive weapons that continue to be used in spite of the effects of the 'Gulf War Syndrome'. It was a sobering talk that kept the audience tuned in.



Following the serious business of the evening, came the drawing of the raffles that are part of every good gathering of this nature. The major prize of a helicopter ride and dinner was won by Mr Michael O'Connor but there were many other happy winners who took goodies home to enjoy later. The evening came to an end about 11.00 p.m. with a general agreement that it had been a great event.

